

many positions within its congregation. Martin and his wife were able to invest their time traveling domestically and across the globe; visiting Europe, the Holy Land, Canada, and destinations throughout the United States.

The Sasser family was blessed with four children, including a daughter and three sons. The family has also been gifted with ten beautiful grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of the late Mr. Martin Van Buren Sasser, for his years of service and outstanding contributions to the community as well as our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on November 3, 2015, I was not present for roll call votes 583 through 593. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted: Nay on roll call vote 583, Nay on roll call vote 584, Yea on roll call vote 585, Yea on roll call vote 586, Nay on roll call vote 587, Nay on roll call vote 588, Yea on roll call vote 589, Nay on roll call vote 590, Yea on roll call vote 591, Yea on roll call vote 592, Nay on roll call vote 593.

RECOGNIZING THE TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) for its seventy-five years of service and stewardship in our community.

The THA was created in 1940 to respond to the overwhelming demand for rental housing in the Pacific Northwest. World War II created a high demand for citizens to serve their country as well as to work in factories and shipyards to assist the war effort. Tacoma faced an immediate shortage of housing for newcomers and their families, and the THA made it a priority to provide affordable housing during these turbulent times.

The Federal Government commissioned the design and speedy construction of large-scale housing developments throughout the Tacoma region. The THA managed Salishan, one of the largest housing developments with over 2,000 units. In coordinated efforts with the City of Tacoma and the U.S. military, the THA provided 3,723 housing units to individuals and families until the war ended in 1945. Salishan aged quickly during the post-war years, and by the 1990s, it needed significant renovations. In 2004, the THA received a \$35 million HOPE VI grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its reconstruction.

Today, the THA continues to provide housing assistance to over 12,000 individuals—roughly six percent of Tacoma's overall population. The majority of these persons are low-

income families, children, seniors, or persons living with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the work the THA has done for the Tacoma community. Their accomplishments and contributions to Washington State have helped to shape Northwest and I am confident that the THA will continue to be a positive contributor to the community in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 586 I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on Roll Call Vote 586.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 587 I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on Part B Amendment No. 5 to Rules Print 114–32, which required the federal government to track the total number, cost, and time required for each environmental review of transportation projects when reporting the status of these projects to the public. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

IN TRIBUTE TO FRED DALTON THOMPSON "NOTED ATTORNEY AND ACTOR, WRITER, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR WATERGATE COMMITTEE, AND U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Fred Dalton Thompson, a great American, a man who personified civility; a passionate advocate for good governance, fiscal responsibility, and national security; and United States Senator from Tennessee, who died on Sunday, November 1, 2015, in Huntsville, Tennessee at the age of 73.

Born to Ruth Inez and Fletcher Session Thompson on August 19, 1942, in Sheffield, Alabama, Freddie Dalton Thompson came from humble beginnings. After graduating from Lawrence County High School, Fred Thompson then entered the University of North Alabama, becoming the first member of his family to attend college. He later transferred to the University of Memphis, where he earned a dual degree in philosophy and political science in 1964 and won a scholarship to Vanderbilt University School of Law from which he graduated with a J.D. in 1967.

After his admission to the Tennessee bar and from 1969–1972, Fred Thompson worked

as an Assistant United States Attorney where he successfully prosecuted bank robberies and other cases. In 1972, Fred Thompson managed the successful reelection campaign of U.S. Senator Howard Baker who brought him to Washington and appointed him Minority Counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee.

Fred Thompson has often been credited for formulating the question made famous by Senator Baker during the Watergate hearings: "What did the President know, and when did he know it?"

In addition to service as a United States Senator, Fred Thompson rendered valuable service to the public as Special Counsel to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (1980–1981), Special Counsel to the Senate Intelligence Committee (1982), and Member of the Appellate Court Nominating Commission for the State of Tennessee (1985–1987).

In 1994, Fred Thompson was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1994 to fill the unexpired term of Senator Al Gore, who had been elected Vice-President and two years later was elected in a landslide to a full six-year Senate term.

During his eight years in the Senate, Fred Thompson served on the Committees on Finance, Government Affairs, and Intelligence. He retired at the end of his term in 2002 and resumed his career as film and television actor, starring for many years as Manhattan District Attorney Arthur Branch in the acclaimed television series "Law and Order."

Notable films in which Fred Thompson starred include "In the Line of Fire," "No Way Out," "Days of Thunder," "The Hunt for Red October," "Cape Fear," "Die Hard 2," "Class Action," and "Fat Man and Little Boy."

Mr. Speaker, I hope it is a comfort to Fred Thompson's widow, Jeri Kehn Thompson, and his surviving children, Freddie Jr. and Samuel, that so many persons are remembering Fred Thompson in their prayers and thoughts.

I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in memory of Fred Thompson, the distinguished U.S. Senator from Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING LORI PROVINCE ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lori Province on her retirement after nineteen years with the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), where she has worked tirelessly on behalf of workers in Washington State.

Prior to joining the WSLC, Lori had a strong background in the labor community. She served as a union representative for the Washington State Council of County and City Employees and for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 120 in Everett.

Upon joining the WSLC in 1996, Lori worked in a variety of roles including as the Field Mobilization Director as a Dislocated Worker Labor Liaison where she provided lay-off aversion services along with Trade Act and NAFTA petition development. Lori also handled outreach to inform dislocated workers about the employment and training services available through the Workforce Investment Act, along with representing their interests and beyond.

When Lori was appointed Field Mobilization Director in 2008, she supported and encouraged the participation of members from a wide variety of legislative and community programs. Her efforts were aimed at continuing the success of the WSLC's Labor Neighbor Political Program and tackling workforce training and apprenticeship issues. Lori has also been active in WSLC's Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) Monitoring Committee, as well as with several government task forces and councils focused on workforce development policies.

After years of tireless work, Lori announced earlier this year that she would retire in November. Despite her retirement, Lori plans on remaining active in labor causes and will no doubt continue to make a positive impact on our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize and congratulate Lori Province on her retirement and her outstanding work in the labor community.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUGLAS
GILDNER'S SERVICE AS FIRE
CHIEF OF THE CITY OF
SOUTHGATE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fire Chief of Southgate, Michigan who is retiring this month after 27 years of service to the Southgate Fire Department, the last six as the City's Fire Chief.

Since he first started with the department in 1988, Doug has been known for being temperate and hard-working. These traits have earned him the credibility to be a consensus builder in the community and enabled him to navigate the department through good times as well as challenging times. Embodying the idea that hard work pays off, Doug has climbed the ranks in the department all the way to the top. Becoming chief in 2009, Doug's ability to build relationships with the other area chiefs has had a profound impact on strengthening morale and improving safety in the Downriver communities.

Doug has always been a member of the community first, and that's not going to change. He will continue to teach young firefighters at Schoolcraft College, preparing new teams of heroes to keep our communities safe. Doug serves as an excellent role model not only for these students, but in his newest and most important position: grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Chief Douglas Gildner for his twenty seven years of service and his lasting impact on the Downriver communities. I thank him for his leadership, and wish him many years of happiness.

HONORING BRAVE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED OUR
COUNTRY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we approach Veterans Day to honor the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform. Earlier this year I met with a group of young Iowans belonging to the Junior Optimists Club—they found a truly unique way to pay tribute to our Iowa veterans.

The Sidey family owned and published the Free Press in Greenfield, Iowa, for over 125 years. The Free Press would publish letters Iowa servicemen sent home to their families over the years. The Junior Optimists I met went through the Sidey's collection of soldiers' letters from World War II. They picked out the ones they found most interesting or compelling and read them aloud at a Flag Day celebration that I was fortunate to attend.

I want to share them here with my colleagues in the House of Representatives so that we and future generations may always remember the very real and human struggles our men and women face as they leave their loved ones behind to bravely serve our country with dignity, honor, and distinction.

Corporal Russell Smith, serving with the Army in North Africa, wrote the following letter dated May 23, 1943, to his sister:

Will write a few lines tonight to let you know I am getting along ok and hope this find you the same. We haven't been doing much since the war is over down here. Up to now we have been gathering and cleaning up all the German equipment that they left. There is everything from a rifle up to an airplane. Lots of tanks and big guns. They burned about everything though, so it isn't much good for anything except iron. I didn't know they had as much stuff in the whole German army as I've seen here in the last couple of weeks. Right now that is for a week. Believe it nor not, we are on a week's vacation on the beach of the Mediterranean. We have to do a little fishing in the forenoon but in the afternoon we can do anything we like, go boating, swimming, play ball or drink wine or just lay around and sleep. This probably isn't all as good as it sounds but it's sure a good break for after what we've been through. I've had some pretty good experiences or I might say not so good. We had everything from mortar shells to bombs dropped on us and sometimes I thought every Hynie in the German army was firing machine guns and rifles at us. We were pinned down several times, but the longest was one day when we were attacking a hill and pinned down about 6 in the morning and had to lay there all day with only a little bunch of grass in front of some of us, and some didn't even have that. Didn't hardly dare wiggle a finger or they would let go everything that they had, and I mean we didn't move until it got dark. Didn't take a drink of water or smoke a cigarette, and boy it was hot. Les was also in that same battle the day before. That's about all I can tell you about it so will call it enough.

The following are a few extracts from a letter written by Sgt. Ernest L. "Budd" Jenkins dated June 23, 1943 from Camp Shelby, Mississippi to his Aunt and Uncle—Mr. and Mrs. Charley Gillham.

I have a good excuse for not answering your letter sooner as I have been in the field on firing problems and naturally there is no way of writing letters while out in the woods. That's some life, setting our big guns in position and firing in the heat of the day about 102 all day long. Then black-out driving at pitch dark into another position to make a surprise attack on the enemy. When we finally slow up to see if we can get a few hours sleep we battle mosquitoes, insects, lizards and snakes and finally roll up in stubborn sleep, when bang "Fire Mission" and we roll out to produce fire from our guns. We like it and we'll do it until we're tops, so darn good that when we go over there well have Nazis and [Japanese] running in every direction. Look what the artillery did to the Germans over in Africa. I can't tell you how happy I am to do my bit. I'm only one in about 10,000 trying to get to do my bit. I hope all of you are well and happy. I'd like awfully well to see you.

Write soon,

BUDD.

Private Floyd Stimen, September 11, 1943, while serving in Italy:

I sure will be glad when this war is over and everything is back to normal. Am pretty sure I am going out of the Navy for I want a normal home and a decent job and few of the things they are promising us now. All I have to say is that they better make those promises good. For these fellows are sure counting on it, and there will be enough of them to make it pretty hot if they don't make good on their promises. I am so damn tired of all this fighting when all you have to look forward to is going to sea again with duty 16 and 18 hours a day.

I guess my stay in the hospital has spoiled me. I know it softened me up a lot for I lost over 20 pounds but have started to gain it back again now. I kinda miss seeing all those good looking nurses around but I guess it's just as well for they had me spoiled. They are really a swell bunch of people. (I in particular) for she always treated me well. She used to get me special food and ice cream, anything I wanted and the rest of the patients had to take what they got. I can tell you now, I am well and out of there but you about lost your "little boy Floydie" for a couple of times I about bled to death and they had to give me transfusions but that's all in the past and forgotten. I am going to take the nurse that was good to me out to dinner and a show Monday night to show my appreciation.

Well folks, I am about run down so will close for this time. I hope you are all ok. Write me at the new address. Tell everyone hello for me.

All my love,

FLOYD.

This letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beaman of Canby, Iowa from Technical Sergeant Adam C. Wygonik of Chicago, who was brought back to the United States on the SS *Gripsholm*, concerning their son, Sgt. Howard Beaman, a prisoner of war in Germany.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1943.

I am a very good friend of your son, Howard. I've been in the same squadron with him and even flew him in the same ship. We were also in the same camp in Germany, and when I left the camp in August (to be repatriated) Howard was in the best of health and feeling like a million. He is getting your mail and parcels quite regularly now (even though it takes six months to get there) and he sure does enjoy them. All last winter Howard was my bridge partner and all summer long he has been pretty busy managing "Beaman's Demons" baseball team there in camp. I